

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *ACACIA*.

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(Plate xxv.)

*ACACIA MUELLERIANA*, n.sp.

A handsome shrub or tree, 20 feet in height as seen, and bearing some general resemblance to *A. decurrens*, var. *normalis*, but from which it differs in important points; glabrous in all its parts; branches terete, except perhaps the extremities, slightly decurrent at the junction of the branchlets, resembling in this respect in a slight degree some forms of *A. decurrens*, var. *mollis*. The young shoots show no distinctive coloration such as is found in the varieties of *A. decurrens* and *A. dealbata*. Pinnæ mostly one pair, rarely three pairs, leaflets linear, not numerous, mostly six, nearly one line broad, over twelve lines long, obtuse, gradually narrowing to the base, often curved at the free end. Glands few, one at the base of each pair of pinnæ, the lower one a little removed from the point of juncture. The common petiole winged on the upper edge. Flower heads exceedingly small, on filiform peduncles in axillary racemes on the branchlets, about as long as or scarcely exceeding the leaves, 6 to 12 in a raceme; the upper ones forming a loose terminal panicle. Flowers 5 to 8 in the head. Calyx-lobes acute, nearly half the length of the corolla. Petals glabrous, slightly ribbed. Pod glabrous, thin, moniliform in many cases, much longer than any of the varieties of the *decurrens* group, 5 to 7 inches long, about 4 lines broad. Seed ovate, longitudinal; funicle thickened into a club-shaped aril under the seed, with a short fold below it.

*Hab.*—Foot of ranges forming the southern watershed of the western branches of the Hunter River, New South Wales (*J. Dawson*).

Owing to the unusually long leaflets it is not easy to assign a relative position to this species in Bentham's Bipinnatæ group as defined in the Flora Australiensis. Of the three subdivisions of this group, it belongs to the Botryocephalæ series, and its having one to three pairs of pinnæ ranges it with *A. elata*, *pruinosa*, *spectabilis*, *polybotrya*, and *discolor*, while the narrowness of the leaflets seems to connect it with *A. decurrens*. The gland a little removed from the lowest pinnæ indicates some affinity to *A. pruinosa*. As the slightly decurrent stem and a general facies seem to connect it with *A. decurrens*, it has been provisionally placed between that species and *A. discolor*, with which it can claim a remote kinship in the fewness of the pinnæ and leaflets.

We think it is very appropriate to dedicate this interesting new *Acacia* to Baron von Mueller, K.C.M.G., to whom botanists are indebted for his classical "Iconography of Australian *Acacias*."

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#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXV.

##### *Acacia Muelleriana*.

Fig. 1.—Twig of plant in bud.

Fig. 2.—Flower-head (enlarged).

Fig. 3.—Separate flower (enlarged).

Fig. 4.—Pod.

Fig. 5.—Seed (enlarged).

Fig. 6.—Lateral view of petiole (enlarged), showing glands and wing on upper edge.